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14 July 1971

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Dear Dave,

In reference to the letter you gave me at lunch the other day concerning the U-2, I would like to propose another solution which may alleviate the commitments of the Air Force fleet, and result in an overall improvement in the utilization of the total resources. Instead of transferring one aircraft to the Air Force, the CIA through judicious scheduling and aircraft utilization, can accept the NRO Cuba photography requirement with our present total resources. This should increase the flexibility of the Air Force fleet in that it would release the aircraft presently used for this mission to support other requirements. While this arrangement would significantly increase the commitments of our Edwards Detachment and would quite probably require a relocation of assets, I feel that it is within our capability.

If this distribution of assets is not feasible and it becomes necessary to move one aircraft to the Air Force, we will almost certainly be required 25X1 to bring one aircraft [redacted] back to the U. S. to meet the training, maintenance and contingency requirements. This would be necessary as a large portion of our effort at Edwards is devoted to systems testing of equipment which is then utilized by the entire U-2R fleet. [redacted]

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These [redacted]

USAF review(s) completed.

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and like systems are completely tested and evaluated by our Edwards Detachment and then used throughout the U-2R inventory. Without a third aircraft at Edwards we would quite often have periods where one aircraft was out of commission and the other aircraft configured for specific tests and not available to fulfill our contingency requirements.

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